

NIH CHILD CARE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 27, 2005

Building 31 – 6C Room 7

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Janet Austin, Valerie Durrant, Hillary Fitis, Angela Magliozzi, Richard Morris, Kim Plascjak, Tracy Waldeck, Mary Ellen Savarese

Members Absent: Christie Baxter, Jayne Lura-Brown, Monica Ellerbe-Scott, Juanita Mildenberg, Henry Primas, Lisa Strauss

Liaisons in Attendance:

POPI: Paulina Alvarado, Lucretia Berlinski, Christine Koch-Paiz

ECDC: none

Childkind: Michael Difilippantonio

OGC: none

Board Staff: Joy Postell

Guest: Patty Brandt, OLPA

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Janet Austin began the meeting by welcoming members, liaisons and guest. As a result of Drs. Zerhouni's and Kington's letter to the NIH Child Care Board, Ms. Patty Brandt from the Office of the Director, Office of Legislative Policy and Analysis, (OPLA) was identified and acknowledged as the OPLA contact in order to support communication and understanding of child care issues related to federal legislation. She will act as a Board advisor when needed and as her schedule permits.
- II. **Waitlist Report:** Mary Ellen Savarese summarized the waitlist contract and gave a condensed report on the most recent quarter. From July 2005 through September 2005, there were 951 children on the waitlist. She presented various charts ranging from children on waitlist by Center, to quarterly activity on the waitlist by Center, and employment representation by Institute. She said that DOES/ORS expects to dispatch a NIH wide child care survey on or about December 6. The Board will be consulted for comments and suggestions prior to launch. A discussion ensued about the types of questions that should be asked on the survey. One way to help ensure that poll-takers get more information about the child care services offered at the NIH is to create a link on the final page of the survey to the DOES/ORS Child Care Services site. Another suggestion was to ask the NIH Benefits Office to include a link to the DOES/ORS website at the bottom of their quarterly emails to NIHers.
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** Janet called for a motion to approve the June 2005 Board minutes. All members were in favor and the minutes were approved.
- IV. **Membership Committee:** Kim Plascjak nominated Dr. Valerie Durrant as the Assistant to the Board Chair. An invitation was extended to the Board for other nominations. None were made. Dr. Durrant was voted into office by all present Board members.

- V. Revisions:** Mary Ellen announced revisions to the Member list to include Christie Baxter of NIDA as a voting member. Revisions were also made to the work/action plan to include extending an invitation to NICHD to speak to the Board about the research they are conducting regarding child care services. In addition, an emergency child care initiative was added based on the Board's discussion on reviewing NIH emergency child care plans, exploring NIH child care role in emergency response.
- VI. Charter Committee Report:** Richard Morris lead a discussion on possible additions to the Charter which will expire June 2006. The committee suggests adding language that expresses the Board's ongoing data collection and analysis regarding expanding child care capacity through the creation of partnerships with outside providers. Patty Brandt recommended that the charter more specifically state that Board advises the NIH Director instead of "the NIH". The charter member committee is expected to present a draft of Charter revisions at the next Board meeting in December.
- VII. Tribble Amendment Discussion:** Mary Ellen Savarese gave an overview of the Tribble Amendment explaining that it is a Public Law that authorizes federal agencies to spend appropriated funds on child care. The Tribble Amendment, as interpreted at NIH, does not permit contracting for additional child care services that have been identified by the Board. Ms. Brandt talked about the need to make a compelling argument that the Regulation needs to be changed to provide the flexibility necessary to pursue other child care solutions. The Board will need to compile data not only from the waitlist but from trend data of the employment population from OPM and/or DHHS. Once the evidence is collected, buy-in from the NIH administration must be achieved, and funding must be found and earmarked for these programs. Dr. Waldeck will research the emergency back up care in place for employees of the Treasury Department. The Board discussed and agreed that change to the Tribble Amendment is a daunting task but in order to serve the greatest number of NIH employees in need of child care services, alterations or a more liberal interpretation is needed. The Board requested that Mary Ellen share this discussion with Valerie Bonham, (formally Hurt), at OGC, to see if there is any administrative remedy. Valerie will be invited to attend the December Board meeting for a follow up discussion

VIII. Announcements:

Mary Ellen announced that a brown bag roundtable was being developed to be held in December to discuss homework issues for elementary and middle school students. She alerted the Board to lookout for a new seminar series in early 2006 for issues for parents with teenagers.

As traditional, Prizes were awarded to those Board members who made any attempt to wear Halloween costumes.

Meeting adjourned at noon.

The next meeting will begin on December 1, 2005 Building 45/Conference Room B

Prepared by: Joy Postell 10/31/05